

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 19, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Luz Robles
Rep. Trisha S. Beck
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Phil Riesen
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom
Rep. Evan J. Vickers

Members Absent:

Sen. D. Chris Butters, Senate Chair
Rep. Christine A. Johnson

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Sen. Butters was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Adams, Rep. Hutchins, Rep. McIff, and Rep. Vickers were absent for the vote.

2. Federal Healthcare Reform

Dr. Joseph Cramer, with Ben Barker, Business Analyst, Utah Health Information Network, demonstrated how clinicians will be able to access patient data using electronic clinical health information exchange (cHIE). Mr. Cramer distributed a packet of information to the Committee.

Ms. Teresa Rivera, Chief Operating Officer, Utah Health Information Network, reported on the status of cHIE implementation throughout the state. She noted that the program is still in the pilot phase and that information has not yet been obtained regarding cost savings.

Dr. David Sundwall, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health (UDOH), distributed "Initial Analysis of Federal Health Reform Legislation" and discussed some of the impacts of the legislation on Medicaid.

Mr. Michael Hales, Director, Division of Health Care Financing, Utah Department of Health, responded to committee questions about insurance coverage to age 26, Medicaid births, counting the uninsured, and Medicaid eligibility.

Dr. Sundwall distributed "Federal Health Reform (P.L. 111-148) Select Impacts on Medical Assistance

Programs," which outlines certain mandatory and optional provisions of the federal law. He stated the establishment of the Prevention and Public Health Fund within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will expand the national investment in prevention and public health programs. He indicated Utah has some flexibility in determining which of those programs to implement.

Ms. Dupont briefly reviewed materials discussed at a special briefing the Legislature received earlier in the day on federal health care reform.

Sen. Jones noted that the Legislature has heard much about the detrimental aspects of federal health reform and that she would like a more fair and balanced way to consider the federal legislation that addresses the savings associated with the federal legislation. Chair Ray indicated that the issue would be discussed in a future meeting.

Ms. Judi Hilman, Utah Health Policy Project, distributed "Opt Out Provisions in Federal Health Reform." She noted that the only way to build on Utah's reforms and values is to fully engage in the implementation process. She pointed out that most of the reforms and expansions are based on and will strengthen the private market.

Mr. Lincoln Nehring, Utah Health Policy Project, encouraged the Legislature to seriously plan over the next few years how to implement federal reform and to not wait until 2014.

3. Update on Health System Reform Task Force

Mr. Andrews indicated that the Health System Reform Task Force has determined to focus on the following four issues:

- oversight of pre-2010 initiatives;
- oversight of changes made during the 2010 legislative session;
- implementation of cost containment initiatives; and
- development of policy responses to federal health reform.

4. Healthcare-associated Infections

This item was not discussed.

5. H1N1 Update

Dr. Sundwall shared a letter he wrote to the Wall Street Journal in response to an article it printed regarding H1N1. He distributed "2009 H1N1 Pandemic in Utah." He noted that Utah did an outstanding job at monitoring and surveillance. He pointed out that Utah was the hardest hit area outside of New York City.

Mr. Gary Edwards, Executive Director, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, said the department has been doing mass vaccination clinics for a number of years, but not with the demand that was seen during H1N1. He said that H1N1 was a good learning experience for the department to move forward to be better prepared to protect the public health in the future.

6. Open and Public Meetings Act Training

Mr. Vaughn explained that Utah law requires every public body to have Open and Public Meetings Act training on a yearly basis. He reviewed with the Committee "Open and Public Meetings Act, 2010 Training – Summary of Key Provisions," which was included in the mailing packet.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.